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ACT ONE

EXT. STATION SQUARE - DOWNTOWN - DAY

The CAMERA PANS round an INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOOD, looking like NYC circa 1991 and Setagaya circa 1971.

TITLE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

Anthropomorphic animal CITIZENS are roaming the streets of the city. A DINER, a SODA SHOP, and an ARCADE line the sidewalks. A train station in the distance. Big and small BUILDINGS fill the urban environment.

EXT. STATION SQUARE - KALINSKE STREET - SAME

PUSH IN on an APARTMENT. It's towering, much like the other buildings neighboring it. PUSH IN into the second floor, third door.

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SAME

BERNADETTE (35) is packing her son's brown BACKPACK. Her son, SONIC (10) is standing next to her.

BERNADETTE
Have a good day at school, Sonic!

Sonic nods, puts on his backpack, and walks out the door.

SONIC (V.O.)
My name is Sonic, Sonic the Hedgehog. And this is what my life is like.

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

Sonic enters the ELEVATOR, where a BELLHOP is waiting for him.

SONIC
First floor, please.

The bellhop presses the first button and down they go. While waiting, Sonic strikes up a conversation.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Don't you ever get tired of standing in here all day?

The bellhop shakes his head.

BELLHOP
Sonic, right?
(off Sonic's nod)
Listen, kid: when you get older, you're gonna devote your heart and soul to your job. Enjoy now while you can.

Off Sonic, intimidated --

EXT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Sonic exits his apartment, and tries to navigate the CROWDED NEIGHBOURHOOD, but occasionally bumps into people.

SONIC (V.O.)
I'm struggling thru fifth grade. It's the worst torture known to animal, because according to my mom, I might be "mentally handicapped."

Finally, OUT OF BREATH, Sonic reaches his SCHOOL.

INT. STATION SQUARE ELEMENTARY - ROOM 3A - DAY

The school chime sounds, and Sonic walks into the small room.

SONIC (V.O.)
Welcome to the school of hard knocks. This is where the magic happens.

MRS. WINSLOW, a female rabbit, is the teacher. Sonic sits at a desk next to one occupied by CHICO (10), a LIME GREEN hedgehog.

SONIC
What's up, Chico?

CHICO
Nothing much.
(then)
How 'bout you?

They're interrupted by Mrs. Winslow clearing her throat.

MRS. WINSLOW
Sonic...

Sonic looks up to see Mrs. Winslow standing in front of him.

MRS. WINSLOW (CONT'D)
Where's your homework?

SONIC
Well, you see, I-I-I...

MRS. WINSLOW
Just tell me!

SONIC
(sighs)
...I forgot.

Sonic facepalms.

MRS. WINSLOW
Sonic, I can't believe it! You always do your homework.

SONIC
Yeah, and get Ds.

MRS. WINSLOW
At least you were honest. I always expect that of you.

Mrs. Winslow walks away, as Chico glances at Sonic.

SONIC
Can there be a rule stating no homework on Thursdays, too?

Sonic and Chico redirect their attention to Mrs. Winslow as the lesson starts.

SONIC (V.O.)
It happens like clockwork. Watch and learn.

MRS. WINSLOW
Everyone open your books to page 89.

The students get out their BOOKS. Sonic begins to read, but he's soon distracted by the BIRDS CHIRPING outside. Suddenly --

MRS. WINSLOW (CONT'D)
Sonic, would you be able to tell me the meaning of the word "chemical?"

SONIC
Huh? What? Oh... yeah. It means... uhm... I don't know.

Off the class' LAUGHTER...

EXT. STATION SQUARE ELEMENTARY - SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Sonic walks out on the BLACKTOP. Chico waves by a tree and comes over.

SONIC
I'm having a horrible day.

CHICO
Wanna talk about it?

SONIC
(hesitates, then)
Everyone thinks I'm a loser.

CHICO
No, you're not! You're just being shy.

SONIC
I'm not. It has to be my... uhm... "mental abilities." Because my only other friend besides you is my computer.

CHICO
You waste too much time on it. Go outside and make new friends.

SONIC
No way. Windows 3.0. Solitaire. Zork. Way too addicting.

CHICO
Computers are like drugs. And you know what DARE says about them.

SONIC
Who cares what DARE says??

A MALE CHINCHILLA comes by.

CHICO
Why not try to make friends with him? Just remember, act natural.

Sonic takes a deep breath in, then as calm and natural as he can be--

SONIC
Hi, I'm Sonic H. How are you?

CHINCHILLA
Sonic? What in the world is that name?

SONIC
Well, what in the world is *your* name?
(off his confusion)
It wasn't my choice. It was my mom's.

CHINCHILLA
She's either a hippie, which by the way, don't exist anymore, or braindead. Probably braindead.
(then)
Sonic's not a real name. It's an *adjective*.

The chinchilla laughs and walks away, as Sonic, QUITE ANGRILY, turns to Chico.

SONIC
See?

CHICO
Well, let's move on to plan B: impress people. You know, run track, join the swim team and get a cool jacket or something...

SONIC
The swim team? Are you serious? Don't you remember when I drowned in the pool and my mom had to save me?

Chico nods, remembering.

SONIC (CONT'D)
I was the laughingstock of the town after that.

A group of KIDS pass by - a FEMALE FOX, a MALE LIZARD, and a MALE MINK.

MINK
Hey look, it's Sonic!

FOX
Loser!

The group laugh and point at Sonic as they walk away. Sonic is DISTRAUGHT.

SONIC
(sighs)
Guess they're right.

CHICO
You're wrong! Look at me! I-I'm serious!

SONIC
Wrong??
(beginning to cry)
My name isn't real, my life isn't real!

CHICO
Oh, no! Stop! They'll see you!

Too late, as Sonic bursts out in tears. Everyone notices him and bursts out laughing. Sonic's face FLUSHES.

FOX
Look, now he's crying!

LIZARD
Big boys don't cry!

MINK
(sing-songy)
Sonic's crying!

Others join in on the mink, taunting Sonic.

KIDS
(sing-songy)
Sonic's crying! Sonic's crying!
Sonic's crying! Sonic's--

O.C. we hear a WHISTLE BLOW, signaling everybody to go back inside.

KIDS (CONT'D)
Ah!

They grab their things and walk back inside, chatter amongst them. Only Sonic and Chico are left. Soon, Mrs. Winslow walks over to them.

MRS. WINSLOW
What's wrong, Sonic?

SONIC
I cried in front of the WHOLE PLAYGROUND!

CHICO
Don't worry. Everyone will forget about it in no time.

MRS. WINSLOW
It's okay, Sonic.
(kneels over and pats his head)
Don't let them get to you. You're one of my favorite students!

SONIC
Even if I'm close to repeating fifth grade?

MRS. WINSLOW
Nonsense! Your grades are fine by me.
(then)
Come back inside. I'll give you a free pass on your homework.

Off Sonic's smile --

EXT. STATION SQUARE ELEMENTARY - OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL - LATER

The school day is over, and Sonic SLUMPS out of the building. Scanning the front entrance for Chico, he finds no sign of him, and decides to walk home by himself.

SONIC (V.O.)
I don't know it, yet, but I'm about to change my life.

EXT. STATION SQUARE - OVERPASS - DAY

While walking, a few bullies surround him. A LIZARD (not the same one from earlier), a BAT, a RAT, an ECHIDNA, and a MOUSE.

BAT
'Sup, Sob-nic?

LIZARD
We heard about your little show at recess.

MOUSE
Not just a show, an *experience*. Grandparents will tell their kids about it for generations!

SONIC
Stop it, guys!

RAT
Whatza matter? Scared?

They all laugh as Sonic, tears welling up in his eyes again, takes off RUNNING down the street. The kids follow him.

What Sonic doesn't notice, however, is a GIANT BARREL that factory workers just brought out of a truck. The barrel's just standing lone in the road, which is actually a bit dangerous.

LIZARD (O.S.)
You can run, but you can't hide!

Sonic, quite intimidated, tries to play cool and act tough.

SONIC
(fake Clint Eastwood)
Oh, yeah? I know karate, and I'll tie you in a knot!

LIZARD (O.S.)
Prove it!

Sonic CHARGES at his tormentors, fist flying, when suddenly- he FLIES into the barrel. HARD. GREEN GOOP spills all over him. Reveal the lizard is the one who pushed Sonic.

BAT
Dude. WAY too much.

The lizard is worried. The echidna runs over to the UNCONSCIOUS Sonic.

ECHIDNA
Sonic! Hey, Sonic!
(off Sonic's silence)
Wake up!

RAT
Check for a pulse!

The echidna feels Sonic's chest. His heart is still beating.

ECHIDNA
Not dead!

The mouse, bat, and echidna all carry Sonic and place him on the GRASSY PATCH by a nearby SIDEWALK. After a while, Sonic slowly comes to.

SONIC
(groggy)
Ohhh... what happened?

ECHIDNA
Anton got bloodthirsty again.

BAT
We're so sorry.

RAT
See, nobody cares about us, just like you. It's just that... we wanted to feel better about ourselves.

SONIC
Just don't let that get to you. You just need some friends.

ECHIDNA
Well, we're all friends, I guess. But we don't hang out aside from school.

MOUSE
You should go home now, Sonic. Mom must be worried.

Sonic stumbles up and shakes the green stuff off, then begins to run home. CLOSE ON his feet turning into a BLUR, then PULL BACK to reveal a BLUE STREAK behind.

EXT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Sonic skids to a halt in front of his apartment, dumbfounded.

SONIC
(beat)
How fast did I just run?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Sonic enters his apartment.

SONIC
Hello?

A MALE RABBIT wearing an old white T-shirt and a FEMALE CAT wearing a pink turtleneck look at him.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Watch me, and tell me if anything's wrong.

Sonic RUNS round IN A CIRCLE. The couple are surprised to see his FEET become a BLUR. Sonic stops, exhausted.

CAT
Something's definitely wrong.

Sonic walks into the elevator.

SONIC
Something's wrong with me!

BELLHOP
(sighs)
This kid...

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sonic tries his best to act normal as he explains to his mother and father, CHEVY (36), about what happened.

SONIC
I got covered in this sticky green stuff. Now...

He RUNS AT HIGH SPEED and back, DIZZYING Bernadette and her husband. He stops and pants.

Off Bernadette and Chevy's shock--

INT. STATION SQUARE MEDICAL - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

The HEDGEHOG DOCTOR takes Sonic into her room and puts him on the table. Bernadette and Chevy are sitting by the table.

BERNADETTE
Let Dr Kimura check you out, okay?

Hesitant, Sonic eyes DR KIMURA.

DR KIMURA
He seems healthy.

BERNADETTE
Well, somehow, he can run at the speed of sound.

DR KIMURA
Any history of this in the family?

BERNADETTE
(shakes her head)
He says he got covered in "sticky green stuff..."

DR KIMURA
I see. I'll need to get a blood sample.

Dr Kimura takes a NEEDLE out of a drawer. Immediately, Sonic begins to panic.

DR KIMURA (CONT'D)
This will only hurt a little, Sonic.

Close on Sonic as Kimura sticks the needle into his arm. CUT TO:

EXT. STATION SQUARE MEDICAL - DAY

ON THE BUILDING as we hear SONIC'S SCREAM.

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Sonic, HIS ARM BANDAGED, plays with GI JOES when the PHONE rings. Bernadette picks it up.

BERNADETTE
Hello, it's Bernadette.

CROSS-CUT PHONE CALL:

DR KIMURA
Well, we've finished the bloodwork. Is your son here?

BERNADETTE
(to Sonic)
Sonic! Come here.

Sonic groans and enters the scene.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)
Yes, he's here.

DR KIMURA
Good. There seems to be an overabundance of toxic chemicals in your son's blood.
(then, to Sonic)
That's the green stuff.

SONIC
(freaked out)
TOXIC CHEMICALS?!?! I'm gonna die! If those things can harm Captain Planet, they'll definitely kill me!!

DR KIMURA
Relax, Sonic, it won't kill you.
(then)
It seems like whoever engineered the chemicals intended them for superspeed. So... your son is faster than sound itself now.

Off Sonic and Bernadette, sharing uneasy glances.

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - SONIC'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bernadette is putting Sonic to sleep. We can see he has an OSCAR THE GROUCH STUFFY by his pillow.

BERNADETTE
Sonic, I want you to *never* use your superspeed in public. Ever.

SONIC
But it's so cool!

BERNADETTE
Well, it might be cool, but you don't know how bad it really is. What if you get lost one day, and I can't find you?

SONIC
Like that'd ever happen--

Bernadette SHUSHES him on.

SONIC (CONT'D)
(sighs)
Okay, mama.

Bernadette leaves the room. Sonic turns to us with a DEVIOUS glint in his eyes.

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - LAUNDRY ROOM - MIDNIGHT

On the dead silent LAUNDRY ROOM. Suddenly, footsteps disturb the silence. It's Sonic.

Making sure no one sees him, he opens the door of the tumble dryer. Steps in. He starts rolling himself round, which causes the tumble dryer to get going. Doing this, he sings a song his mom always sang to him:

SONIC
(softly singing)
"My name is Sonic H, I work on a merry go round, the job's quite swell, I did so well, till the merry go round broke down..."

EXT. STATION SQUARE ELEMENTARY (TO ESTABLISH) - MORNING

FAVOUR a sign near the entrance that reads "**CARNIVAL TONIGHT! @ MELTZER / SENOUE, 6 PM.**"

INT. STATION SQUARE ELEMENTARY - HALL - SAME

The next Monday at school, Sonic tells Chico about what happened.

CHICO
Holy dapperdoodles! Wait till they hear about THIS!

SONIC
But... there's only one problem.
(off Chico)
Mom doesn't want me to do it.

A FEMALE RAT approaches the pair.

RAT #2
Do what?

CHICO
(smiles)
He can run like the Flash!

RAT #2
He can't.

CHICO
Can too!

RAT #2
Then show me.

Off Sonic and Chico's DISDAIN, we SMASH CUT to--

INT. STATION SQUARE ELEMENTARY - ROOM 3A - DAY

The KIDS, including Sonic and Chico, are all at their desks. Mrs. Winslow stands before them, UPSET.

MRS. WINSLOW
Now, I want all of you to write an essay on proper behavior during a fire drill.

Sonic SLUMPS in his seat. MATCH TO:

INT. BERNADETTE'S CAR - LATER

Sonic is being driven home by Bernadette.

BERNADETTE
Sonic... you should've known better. What were you thinking?
(off him)
This whole "superspeed" thing is getting to your head. Remember what I told you: you're still my son.

The car drives round a PATHMARK. Reveal a carnival getting prepared. Rides are getting set up. Sonic's eyes WIDEN.

SONIC
Look, mama! The carnival's coming to town! Can we go?

BERNADETTE
Not after what you did today.

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - SONIC'S ROOM - DAY

Sonic has a room full of TOYS, decorated with band posters: Blondie, the Misfits, Television, Sonic Youth, the Clash, etc. A WINDOWS 3.0 is in the corner.

Sonic, FRUSTRATED, walks unusually, like he's pretending to go at a normal pace. He hops on his bed and crosses his arms.

BERNADETTE (O.S.)
If you sneak out of the house, then no computer, either!
(then)
I have to go to a friend's now. You be good!

The door closes. Off Sonic, smirking--

EXT. STATION SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

A BLUE STREAK rips thru the street, stopping in the concrete parking lot behind the PathMark and transforming back into SONIC. He pants.

CHICO (O.S.)
Sonic?

SONIC
H-hi.

CHICO
I thought your mom was giving you a yelling of the century.

SONIC
She-- she-- let's just go have fun, okay?!

Sonic follows Chico past VENDORS selling food and hosting games, a FERRIS WHEEL, and a TRABANT. A few KIDS are seen hanging out by the PICNIC BENCHES -- a BLUEBIRD, a CANARY, a CAT. The bullies from earlier are also there.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Hi, I'm Sonic H!

Some of the kids groan.

CANARY
Sonic? The fire drill kid?

SONIC
I-- I can explain.

CANARY
Explain this instant!!

SONIC
Well...

He runs at his supersonic speed in a FIGURE EIGHT. Then he stops and STRIKES A POSE. The kids still don't buy it.

CANARY
Then why'd you do it during a fire drill? Huh?

CHICO
Some jerk needed proof.

CANARY
And the proof hurts, huh?

The bat pipes up.

BAT
Wait a minute, guys. I can explain.
(off the rest)
It's our fault he's like this. Anton pushed him into some green stuff.

SONIC
Those were *toxic chemicals*. And I doubt they'll wear off.

All the kids GLARE ANGRILY in the bullies' direction.

BLUEBIRD
Bill!

CAT
You little...

Everyone starts screaming things like *Fuck you, Bill! You're the worst friend ever!* etc.

SONIC
(losing it)
Congratulations! You've screwed up my life. *Permanently*.

Sonic stares at them, hurt. Then turns, storms away.

<u>EXT. SKYMASTER RIDE - CONTINUOUS</u>

Sonic is standing in line for the SKYMASTER, a pendulum-based flat ride.

CHICO (O.S.)
Sonic?

Reveal CHICO rushing thru the CROWD. He reaches Sonic and taps him on the shoulder.

SONIC
Chico... these past few days have been a nightmare.

CHICO
Look Sonic, it might be an egg on your face, but when you get an egg on your face...

SONIC
You get salmonella.
(off Chico's confusion)
Raw eggs.

CHICO
No, Sonic! You make an omelette. Make something good out of this!

SONIC
If you're going to suggest I run track, they won't allow me, 'cause I'll have an unfair advantage.

CHICO
I don't mean that! I mean--

They're interrupted by the RIDE OP, who indicates them to give their tickets. As they walk onto the ride--

CHICO (CONT'D)
Anyways... what are you doing? I thought you were scared of rides.

SONIC
I-I like rides, I just don't like the ones that go... fast.

Sonic and Chico get into the ride. It starts, builds up momentum, and sends Sonic, Chico, and many other passengers back and forth. They're almost upside down when Sonic begins to GAG. *I take this whole thing back! I wanna go home!!*

The ride soon turns them COMPLETELY UPSIDE DOWN. The CARNIVAL-GOERS scream, as does Sonic, raising from his seat due to hangtime, who HOLDS ON for dear life.

SONIC (CONT'D)
(nauseated)
I WANT MY MAMA--

INTERCUT WITH:

Suddenly, we cut to the outside as Sonic VOMITS all over the place. It flies OUT THE WINDOW and onto some PASSERBYS.

CANARY (O.S.)
THIS IS DISGUSTING!

After the ride ends, the operator unlocks the car, the door swings open, and Sonic and Chico come out, looking GREEN and SICK.

BERNADETTE (O.S.)
SONIC!

Sonic's face changes, tears well up in his eyes. Reveal Bernadette, who is FUMING.

SONIC
Mama!! I'm so sorry!!

BERNADETTE
Get in the car right now!

INT. SONIC'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Sonic is being lectured by his mom.

BERNADETTE
How could you? After I told you not to!

SONIC
I dunno what I was thinking! I just wanted to make new friends!

BERNADETTE
Look, you don't need glitz and glamour to make friends. Just be yourself.
(then)
They say, "A warrior isn't determined by his strength or his speed, but by his heart."

SONIC
His heart...

Sonic hangs his head and frowns, guilt ridden.

EXT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE (TO ESTABLISH) - SAME

PRELAP: a DEEP MALE VOICE huffing.

INT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE - CONTINUOUS

DR IVO ROBOTNIK (40s), a BALDING scientist with BLACK EYES, slams his fist against a lab table. Accompanying him is his assistant MADONNA, a BLONDE bombshell in her late 20s.

DR ROBOTNIK
You have humiliated me for the last time, Madonna!

MADONNA
I'm not humiliating you, I'm keeping you in check. Anyone in their right mind would know animal abuse is wrong.

DR ROBOTNIK
I don't need to be kept in check, nor do I *want* to! I've collected every single degree from every elite college on Mobius. I *know* this will work.

MADONNA
I'm just warning you, Robotnik.

DR ROBOTNIK
I am a *known* homosapien, Madonna! Whatever I say, *goes*!

Robotnik presses a button on a REMOTE, and a shelf FLIPS OVER to reveal an entryway. He walks inside--

ROBOTNIK'S CONTROL ROOM

CLOSE on a BIG, RED BUTTON on one of the many panels lining the room.

Off Robotnik, filled with glee --

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. STATION SQUARE ARCADE - DAY

A typical flashy arcade. Sonic is playing Alien Syndrome. Chico is watching.

CHICO
So Sonic, what happened after your mom took you home?

SONIC
Don't wanna talk about it...

CHICO
I knew it. A yelling of the century.

SONIC
Actually...
(off him)
She told me about a warrior.

CHICO
Michael Beck?

SONIC
No. She said, "A warrior isn't determined by his strength or speed, but his heart."

CHICO
She's got it all wrong! Who wants to see a warrior use their heart? Unless it's like some Kali Ma type stuff...

SONIC
Uhm... Ma-Ti?

Chico nods, remembering, when suddenly, a blue-haired WOODCHUCK, ROSIE, bursts into the building.

ROSIE
Everybody, evacuate!

Sonic jolts and immediately stops playing the game. He turns round to face Rosie.

SONIC
What's going on?

ROSIE
Mobius is in danger!

CHICO
Really?

ROSIE
There's a madman going round harming animals!

SONIC
Everything was fine fifteen minutes ago. Where did you see this?

ROSIE
You haven't seen it? It's all over the news.

SONIC
The only news I watch is Nick News. Special Edition.

The TV that usually only plays Top 40 hits begins to go FUZZY. Sonic and Chico look up to see the face of DR ROBOTNIK on the screen.

DR ROBOTNIK (ON TV)
Good evening, Central City! I hope you're doing fine. I am Dr Ivo Robotnik, and you have been selected for my next experiment!

EXT. STATION SQUARE - DOWNTOWN - SAME

Everybody is gathered watching Robotnik's broadcast on the NEWS SCREENS.

DR ROBOTNIK
As you may or may not know, I study advanced robotics, physics, and biotechnology. I have not been able to put these things together... until NOW!!

ON a RABBIT somewhere in the crowd...

RABBIT
The heck is this?

DR ROBOTNIK
I have invented the prototype Roboticizer!
(MORE)

DR ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
It takes any organic life, like you debonair few, and turns them into a FULLY. FUNCTIONING. ROBOT!

INT. STATION SQUARE ARCADE - CONTINUOUS

Sonic and Chico watch, DUMBFOUNDED.

DR ROBOTNIK
And as a kind gesture, *you* will all be my first test subjects!

Terrified, Sonic RUNS outside, to be met with masses of PANICKED people, including his mom and dad.

SONIC
Mama!! Dada!!

Chevy steps forward--

CHEVY
Listen up. I don't know who you are, but if you come NEAR my son or my wife...

DR ROBOTNIK
Reactionary, aren't we? In fact...

A hidden LASER somewhere on the screen activates.

BERNADETTE
Chevy, LOOK OUT!!

Just as Bernadette steps in to push her husband out of the way, the beam hits both, reducing them to nothing.

Sonic is speechless. His eyes water.

SONIC
Mama? Dada?

Then he RUNS AWAY at his supersonic speed.

EXT. CENTRAL CITY STREETS (VARIOUS) - DAY

See a tearstained Sonic RUNNING thru the streets, a BACKPACK strapped to his back.

EXT. MOBIUS COUNTRYSIDE - EARLY MORNING

Sonic WAKES UP in the SERENE view of the Mobius countryside. *How did I get here?* As he becomes aware of his surroundings, he sees he's not alone.

SONIC
Hello...?

A group of FIVE surround him. BUNNIE RABBOT, SALLY ACORN, ROTOR BOOMER, CHIRPS, and PORKER LEWIS.

SALLY
Guys, he's up.

PORKER
Great! Should we bring him back home?

SONIC
I don't want to go back home.

PORKER
Why? Are you okay? You look like you've seen a ghost.

SONIC
I've seen worse than ghosts. I've seen my parents vapourize.

The group share shocked glances. *Vapourize? Another threat?* etc. Then Sally stops. Turns to Sonic.

SALLY
Have you heard of anyone named Ivo Robotnik?

SONIC
That's him.

SALLY
Knew it.
(then)
I'm Sally Acorn, leader of the Knothole Freedom Fighters. We've been after Robotnik for awhile.

BUNNIE
He's been fixated on turning animals into robots lately. I was one of them. ...Almost.

She shows off her ROBOTIC ARM AND LEGS to Sonic, who gasps.

SONIC
He's not kidding...

ROTOR
You seem pretty scared of this guy.
(Sonic nods)
We've got your back. He won't cause any more harm as long as we're round.

Chirps pipes up.

CHIRPS
Hey, since he's got nowhere to go, how's about we take him in?

PORKER
Yeah! Have him join the team!

The rest of the group nod in approval.

INT. FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASE - COMMONS - LATER

The Freedom Fighters' base, in underground Knothole. Sally sets up a PROJECTOR for Sonic to watch/listen.

SALLY
Lights...

LIGHTS FLICKER OFF as the slideshow begins, with a picture of DR ROBOTNIK, which startles Sonic.

SONIC
Agh! Get him off!

SALLY
Sonic, it's not really him.
(then)
Anyway, Dr Robotnik is the man behind the madness. He's power-hungry and duplicitous. He's stolen ideas from many budding Nobel winners, and word is he's set off atomic bombs on Christmas Island.

SONIC
Christmas Island?!?! That's where I was born!

SALLY
(to herself)
This is worse than I let on.
(then, to Sonic)
(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)
Now, his latest feat is roboticization.

The projector switches to a graphic map of a SMALL CRITTER, a HUGE MACHINE, and a ROBOT version of said critter.

SONIC
I heard this one before. It turns living things into robots.

SALLY
Correct, but it also strips them of their free will. Think of it as *I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream*.
(off Sonic's confusion)
Not until you're in high school.

She switches to an image of a GLOWING RING and a GLOWING GREEN GEM.

SALLY (CONT'D)
The only way to stop Robotnik is by collecting the Chaos Emeralds.

SONIC
I know those! My mom always talked about how Imposters sold replicas.

SALLY
I see! The emeralds do wondrous things, like keeping islands in balance. With them, Mobian life can put up resistance to roboticization. However, they're hidden away in the Warps of Confusion.
(re: the ring)
South Island's scattered with many rings. Find at least fifty of them, and you'll be taken to the Warp of Confusion. There are at least six.

SONIC
This is too much for me to take in. Why can't you do it instead?

SALLY
I'm brains, not brawn. You seem promising.

SONIC
I'm not!!

Suddenly, he stops. Remembers.

BERNADETTE (V.O.)
A warrior is not judged by his strength or speed, but by his heart.

Sonic begins to TEAR UP.

EXT. KNOTHOLE - CONTINUOUS

Chirps is resting in his NEST. Suddenly, Sonic into frame.

SONIC
Hey, Chirps?

Chirps opens one eye--

CHIRPS
Sonic?

SONIC
Can I sleep next to you for a little bit?

Chirps makes room for Sonic to sleep.

The next MORNING, Sonic opens his eyes, plastered with sleep. He's had a nightmare about Robotnik.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Chirps.
(off his silence)
Chirps!

Chirps WAKES UP with a start, SQUAWKS, and TUMBLES HEAD OVER HEELS out of the nest. Sonic can't help but chuckle, and begins to imitate him.

CLOSE ON Sonic as he becomes a BLUR of quills and fur, gathering so much speed that he ZOOMS! PULL BACK to REVEAL he's driven a HOLE thru the side of a mountain.

CHIRPS
(into frame)
Whoa!

SONIC
(dazed)
Did... did I do that?

CHIRPS
Yeah. How?

SONIC
I must've learned it by watching you.

INT. FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASE - COMMONS - MORNING

Sally and Rotor review the info they've gathered about Robotnik. Suddenly, a DEVICE in Sally's hand goes off--

FEMININE VOICE
Breaking.

In a quick motion, Sally looks at her device. Her jaw DROPS.

SALLY
Are you seeing this?

ROTOR
What the--

ON THE SCREEN: Text reading "**DR ROBOTNIK AIMING FOR SOUTH ISLAND.**"

SALLY (CONT'D)
We have no time, Rotor. Get them in here, quick.

TIME TO: The Freedom Fighters, all gathered in the commons.

SALLY (CONT'D)
It looks like we've finally found where Robotnik's secret lab is. It's in his next target...
(beat)
South Island. Off the coast of Star Light Zone.

Sonic begins to get nervous.

BUNNIE
Who we sendin' as the recon?

SALLY
Well, not you, Bunnie, 'cause we can't bear to lose any more of you. And I prefer to stay in the sidelines.

ROTOR
Why not Sonic? Train the little guy. Turn him into a hero.

SALLY
Great idea.
(then, to Sonic)
Sonic, what do you think?

Off Sonic, overwhelmed and terrified by this call to duty.

INT. FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASE - EMPTY QUARTERS - NIGHT

Sonic, SCARED, looks from side to side. POPFLASH TO: BUNNIE. Her ROBOTIC HALF. He shudders, then shuts his eyes, humming his mom's lullaby to himself.

SONIC
(mumbling)
"...was a horse with the lavender eyes..."

Slowly, he opens them. He sees BERNADETTE.

SONIC (CONT'D)
(out loud)
...Mama?

BERNADETTE
Sonic... why are you so scared?

SONIC
It's the stress... I can't take it anymore! My hedgehog nerves are *shot*, I tell you! Shot! Shot! *SHOT!!*

Sonic begins to sob.

BERNADETTE
Remember what I said, you're a warrior.

SONIC
(sniffling)
I'm not a warrior. I'm still a loser. Just one with superspeed.

BERNADETTE
No, you're not. A warrior doesn't only use his heart, but unlocks so much more with it. Unlock the things you never knew about yourself. You don't have to spend the rest of your life afraid of Robotnik. Make me proud.
(then)
I'm not dead, you know. I'm still alive. In your heart.

Sonic closes his eyes, showing a semblance of a smile. When he opens them, Bernadette is gone.

EXT. KNOTHOLE - MORNING

Sonic and Sally are outside the base, Sonic PUNCHING AND KICKING to alleviate his mood.

SALLY
Glad to see you came round, Sonic. Remember, if you need anything, ask Nicole.

Sally hands Sonic the device she used earlier. Sonic flips the screen up, and NICOLE (a holographic LYNX) appears.

NICOLE
Hello.

SALLY
Got it?
(beat)
Sonic?

PULL BACK to REVEAL Sonic is gone as we:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. GREEN HILL ZONE - DAY

Sonic, RUNS at high speed across the South Island countryside. Suddenly, he FALLS DOWN from not looking where he's going.

POV UP on his surroundings: GREEN HILL ZONE, a rolling checkered hillside near the outskirts of South Island. This area is easily recognizable with its odd CHECKERED dirt, but aside from that, it is relatively standard, with tall palm trees and large colourful flowers scattered round the plains.

Sonic gets up, builds up speed and BLASTS OFF, rolling thru a LOOP and thru a path cut in the ground. He sees a SPRING coming, and jumps up and bounces on it. As the spring sends him thru the air, he flies thru THREE GOLDEN RINGS which imbue him with energy. However, when he comes back down, he collides head-first with a ROBOTIC LADYBUG, which causes him to lose his sense of strength and scatters the rings round him. Angered, Sonic recollects the rings and jumps on the ladybug. The robotic encasing breaks, and a SMALL BUNNY jumps out.

SONIC
Did I just...?

Beaming, Sonic runs off. He crosses a bridge and passes a checkpoint. Then he runs past a huge sign. Skidding to a halt, Sonic sits down, exhausted.

SONIC (CONT'D)
(sigh)
Phew.

He picks up the device Sally gave him and turns it on. Nicole appears.

NICOLE
What would you like to know today?

SONIC
Can roboticization wear off?

A "**LOADING**" message pops on the screen, to be replaced by a graphic similar to the one Sally showed.

NICOLE
Roboticization of small creatures can be undone by sheer force. Other than that, it's impossible.

SONIC
So when I jumped on that robot, it broke?

NICOLE
Indeed. Would you like any more help?

SONIC
I got this.

Sonic charges and then dashes off. Sonic SPEEDS and SPINS thru another part of Green Hill.

He jumps into the air, collecting rings. He bounces off Badniks, freeing the little animals inside them. He leaps over a bridge and hops upon robotic fish, their metallic encasing breaking apart to reveal actual fish.

Sonic jumps right into a GIANT RING that suddenly appears before him--

SONIC (CONT'D)
Hey! Whoa!

INT. SPECIAL STAGE - SAME

Sonic has entered the Warp of Confusion. He's sent rolling down a SPINNING maze of PINBALL BUMPERS and BELLS. In the background, there are birds morphing into flowers and other oddities. Sonic gets nauseated.

SONIC
(nauseated)
I think I need a barf bag...

Sonic remembers the carnival ride. How terrified he was. How is he going to survive this?

He manages to get to the very heart of the Warp, where he finds a COLORFUL STONE. Suddenly, he remembers what Sally said about the Chaos Emeralds.

SONIC (CONT'D)
A Chaos Emerald...

He SPINS OUT of the Warp.

INT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE - SAME

A FLASHING MESSAGE on Dr Robotnik's screen reads: FREEDOM FIGHTERS SEND RECON.

Reveal Robotnik, eyeing it with disdain. He turns to Madonna.

DR ROBOTNIK
Madonna, they're onto us!

MADONNA
What do you want me to do about it?
You got in their zone.

DR ROBOTNIK
I must dispose of them at once!
Dispatch my ship!

MADONNA
Which one? The mothership, the
fathership or the crazy uncle?

Madonna looks behind her, and finds a DOME-SHAPED SHIP.

MADONNA (CONT'D)
I knew it. The crazy uncle...

EXT. GREEN HILL ZONE - DAY

A FLYING MECHA descends upon Sonic, causing him to move out of the way. In the mecha is Dr Robotnik. Sonic shrinks in fear.

DR ROBOTNIK
(laughs)
This is what they call a recon?

SONIC
(starts to hyperventilate)
You're a warrior, you're a warrior...

Dr Robotnik presses a button in his mech, which makes a GIANT, CHECKERED WRECKING BALL on a CHAIN pop out from the bottom. Sonic screams and jumps away from the ball's path of destruction.

On Sonic, as we POPFLASH TO: THE TUMBLE DRYER. Then SONIC FALLING OUT OF CHIRPS' NEST.

BACK TO SONIC:

Sonic's eyes narrow. He curls into a SPIKY SPHERE and launches himself at the mecha. This sends it FLYING BACK.

Sonic uncurls, panting, only to now know its' weakness. He rolls into a ball, aims, and thrusts at the mecha again.

As soon as he uncurls, he sees the wrecking ball coming toward him about to crush him! He jumps, spins into a ball, and dives into the straight into the center of the mech. The impact is so strong, the mech EXPLODES! Sonic watches as Robotnik rages.

DR ROBOTNIK
How did you--

SONIC
I don't care.

Dr Robotnik flies away as Sonic runs to find a CAPSULE with a SPRING atop it.

He jumps on the spring and the capsule EXPLODES, letting thousands upon thousands of ANIMALS free. Sonic smiles and pulls up Nicole--

SONIC (CONT'D)
Nicole, I saved the animals!
(then)
Can I be done now?

NICOLE
That's only one of six capsules Dr Robotnik planted across South Island.
(off Sonic)
You must destroy each one.

SONIC
Where to next?

NICOLE
The closest area round here is Marble Zone. Good luck.

SONIC
Oh, boy...

He SPEEDS AWAY, but FALLS DOWN from how fast he's going.

<u>INT. FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASE - COMMONS - LATER</u>

Sally and Rotor are working on locating Robotnik, when Sally receives an update on her computer. It's from SONIC. Very surprised, she reads it. Then smiles.

SALLY
Sonic got back to me. He said he took down Robotnik.

ROTOR
He's lying.

SALLY
Well, if he were, then he'd have to put in a lot of work to convince us.

ROTOR
How'd he stop him?

SALLY
With a "Super Sonic Spin Attack..."

EXT. MARBLE ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Closer to the centre of South Island, this area contains the ruins of an ancient civilization. Somewhere along the line, a freak accident occurred and flooded the area with lava, causing it to become a main staple of the area. Underground, one can find ancient contraptions such as moving glass pillars, destructible blocks, and wall openings that spit fireballs on occasion.

Sonic runs thru the GRASSY HILLS, until he sees terrain broken apart by lava. He gasps, then curls into a ball and takes a LEAP OF FAITH over the lava, silently praying to survive.

He makes it over the lava, but he gets smacked by a SPIKY robot caterpillar. Running round to recollect his rings, he jumps on it and kills it.

Continuing on, he drops underground and sees a medium sized BLOCK. Then he sees a PLUNGER with spikes attached to the bottom.

SONIC
What the...

He pushes the block onto the plunger and it suddenly falls, with him on it.

SONIC (CONT'D)
That was easy. For a slow person.

He moves on ahead, running at high speed. Trying to clear his mind, he thinks of himself as a fast red convertible. He has a bit of fun acting like a car.

However, he gets completely distracted from what he's doing, and he TRIPS right into LAVA. CLOSE on Sonic's face, as he lets the agony sink in, then PULL BACK as he shouts--

SONIC (CONT'D)
(in pain)
MAMA!!

He manages to climb out WRITHING AND CRYING. He sits there, thinking about how his parents would handle this.

SONIC'S MEMORY: YOUNG SONIC is pretending to be a car. He zooms round the driveway, carelessly.

YOUNG SONIC
Vroom vroom!

Suddenly, he trips and sprains his ankle. As he cries, Bernadette into frame, looking worried--

BERNADETTE
Oh Sonic, what happened?

Sonic motions to his ankle, Bernadette picks him up.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I'll make it better.

Bernadette wraps Sonic's ankle in some gauze and puts him in his bed.

BACK ON: Sonic, down in the dumps. With a burnt leg, Sonic limps thru the subterranean mazes of Marble Zone. Every time he jumps over a lava pit, he ends up crashing into the ground. Finally, he emerges above ground. It's starting to get dark.

Sonic YAWNS. He takes a look round and only hears CRICKETS CHIRPING. A ROBOTIC BAT swoops down, scaring the living daylights out of him. He knocks it out with a Spin Attack and a BLUEBIRD flutters out.

Sonic eventually decides to tear some GRASS out of the ground and craft a makeshift blanket. He dozes off. BEGIN DREAM:

EXT. CENTRAL CITY STREETS (VARIOUS) - DAY

Sonic stands in front of his parents, who are again watching Robotnik on the screen.

DR ROBOTNIK
Reactionary, aren't we? In fact...

The laser activates--

BERNADETTE
Chevy, LOOK OUT!!

This time, Sonic runs to get his parents out of the way, but HE ends up getting vapourized with them. BACK TO:

INT. MARBLE ZONE - FIELD - MORNING

Sonic wakes up with a start. He starts taking deep breaths to calm down.

SONIC
(to himself)
It's only a dream... it's not real...

Sonic sits up.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Everything's OK!
(checks his burnt leg)
Except this.

A GIANT RING appears out of thin air. Sonic gulps as he knows what's coming, and jumps in.

INT. SPECIAL STAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Again, Sonic drops into the psychedelic maze of pinball bumpers and other oddities. As he falls, he covers his mouth and takes a deep breath to avoid getting sick.

He spins thru the dizzying maze, gets bumped round, and manages to find the next CHAOS EMERALD. He SPINS out of the stage.

EXT. MARBLE ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Sonic hops out of the ring as it disappears and sighs in relief. Traveling underground, he outruns a SPIKED WEIGHT trying to crush him.

Since he isn't clearly looking where he's going, he WALKS INTO A WALL. The wall opening spits a FIREBALL at him. Luckily, he ducks just in time. Sonic destroys some blocks and pops up above ground--

LAVA PIT

...only to see he's standing in front of a pool of lava. And who descends but Dr Robotnik! Sonic GASPS and tries to keep from freaking out.

SONIC
I thought we settled this the last time!

DR ROBOTNIK
I'm afraid not, Sonic. Last time was just only the beginning!

Sonic suddenly loses his cool.

SONIC
The *beginning?!*

Before Sonic can do anything, Dr Robotnik's mech shoots a FIREBALL from the bottom, setting the platform Sonic is on ON FIRE! Thankfully, Sonic jumps up before he can get burnt.

He leaps over to the next platform and SPIN JUMPS onto the mech. But it sets that platform on fire! So Sonic jumps over to the previous platform, which has been EXTINGUISHED, and Spin Jumps onto the mech.

Rinse and repeat, until Sonic has successfully destroyed the mech, and it explodes. Sonic shows his scarred leg to an angry Robotnik.

SONIC (CONT'D)
By the way, I fell into lava and survived!

He speeds off and destroys the capsule planted, releasing all the animals inside.

<u>INT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE - CONTINUOUS</u>

Madonna is doing HOUSE WORK. Robotnik bursts in, impatient.

DR ROBOTNIK
Madonna! That *hedgehog* is getting on my last nerve!

MADONNA
For an award-winning scientist getting foiled by a hedgehog means you're either incompetent, or insane.

DR ROBOTNIK
I don't care! I've been working on something that will take the fight out of him. Allow me to show you!

IN THE LAB: A ROOSTER ROBOT, a DRILL ROBOT, and a MONKEY ROBOT are all lined up. Robotnik TURNS THEM ON via a remote.

DR ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
After that hedgehog!

SCRATCH
Yes sir!

Madonna into frame, unimpressed.

DR ROBOTNIK
These are designed specifically to target him and outwit him. Scratch relies on speed, Grounder relies on strength, and Coconuts is a wild card.

MADONNA
No they're not, no one cares.

DR ROBOTNIK
You are *tearing me apart*, Madonna!

Dr Robotnik's EYES are filled with malice. Madonna exits, knowing what'll happen.

MADONNA
Sparks, I sure miss you...

EXT. SPRING YARD ZONE - DOWNTOWN - DAY

Our blue hero dashes into a populous city amongst a BRIGHT MAGENTA SKY filled with cotton-candy clouds. Surrounded by green gardens, Sonic is TIRED of all the running he's done and sits on a BENCH to rest his feet for a while.

Angle on the city, lights shining, people having fun. INSERT: CENTRAL CITY.

CLOSE on Sonic, about to cry, when his communicator rings. He picks it up--

BUNNIE
How's my sugah hog?

CROSS-CUT PHONE CALL:

SONIC
Heya, Bunnie. I've made it to the city.

BUNNIE
You mean Spring Yard Zone?

SONIC
It's got pink skies and flashing lights...

BUNNIE
That's Spring Yard Zone. I think you'd like it.
(then)
Have you ran into Robotnik? Sally tells me you beat him--

SONIC
Twice.

BUNNIE
Twice?!

SONIC
Once in Green Hill Zone, again in Marble Zone. Holy moly.

BUNNIE
But you made it out alive.

SONIC
Yeah, who knows how long that'll last...

BUNNIE
Look Sonic. I thought I was gonna die when Robotnik took me. But I came out alive. Yes, with hunks'a junk in place of legs, but other than that, no worse for wear.
(then)
What I mean is, even if you do end up in hot water, you'll come out stronger.

SONIC
Like Obi-Wan. Got that.

BUNNIE
Yeah. I gotta go now. Sally needs me.

END CALL as Sonic stares, ruminating on what Bunnie said. Then--

SONIC
(into device)
Nicole, tell me about Spring Yard Zone.

ON SCREEN: A slideshow of Spring Yard Zone appears.

NICOLE (V.O.)
One of the most hip and happening places on South Island; Spring Yard Zone is the largest city in the area. It has an urban, pinball-like environment.

Sonic feels his stomach RUMBLE.

SONIC
Do you know where I can get a bite to eat? 'Cause I'm starving!

NICOLE (V.O.)
Finding restaurants...

A moment, then "**SPRING YARD PIZZA**" appears on the screen. CUT TO:

INT. SPRING YARD PIZZERIA - MINUTES LATER

"Walk Away" by Alanis plays as Sonic enters the SPRING YARD PIZZERIA. Sonic sits on one of the pedestals in front of the bar. The CASHIER, a bandicoot with BLONDE HAIR and a pink shirt, looks at him with a smile and twinkle in her eye.

CASHIER
Welcome to Spring Yard Pizzeria. What would you like to order?

SONIC
A pepperoni pizza slice and a Pepsi!

CASHIER
(nods, then)
Didn't I see you on TV?
(off Sonic's confusion)
You're all over the news. All day long, it's been Robotnik propaganda, and you're all I see.

Sonic starts to get nervous.

CASHIER (CONT'D)
I kinda feel bad for you. Robotnik hates you so much.

SONIC
(trying to keep cool)
He's a bully. I hate bullies.

The cashier shrugs and leaves. Close on Sonic, terrified.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. SPRING YARD ZONE - DAY

PUSH IN on Spring Yard's news building.

ON THE NEWS SCREEN:

DR ROBOTNIK (V.O.)
Citizens of South Island. In these troubling times, remember that roboticization will turn out to be a utopia. But I'm sad to say there is one runt that believes otherwise.
(beat)
Sonic. *I hate that hedgehog.*

SONIC'S FACE appears on the screen, for all of Spring Yard to see. MATCH TO:

INT/EXT. SPRING YARD PIZZERIA - CONTINUOUS

A waitress comes back with the FOOD Sonic ordered.

WAITRESS
Here ya go!

She walks off. Sonic tries to ignore his newfound "fame" and BITES into his pizza. He cracks open his PEPSI and takes a long chug from it. Setting it down, he licks his lips and SIGHS in satisfaction.

OUTSIDE THE RESTAURANT: Scratch, Grounder and Coconuts are watching Sonic eat his pizza.

SCRATCH
We've got our target. Ready?

Grounder nods. Coconuts watches Sonic as he exits the pizzeria. They all hide in a BUSH as Sonic walks past. Scratch aims a NET at him--

GROUNDER
Now!

Scratch shoots the net and it lands right over Sonic.

SONIC
Agh!

Scratch, Grounder and Coconuts all jump out of the bushes and LAUGH.

COCONUTS
Gotcha, Sonic!

SONIC
Lemme guess... Robotnik sent you??

GROUNDER
Yep. Grounder...

SCRATCH
...Scratch...

COCONUTS
...and Coconuts!
(then, ecstatically)
I'm Robotnik's favorite!

SONIC
(to himself)
Don't worry. You'll make it out alive...

Ignoring the thought, Sonic REVS UP his feet and BURSTS out of the net with a spin attack. He hits Scratch, then Coconuts, then Grounder along the way. They all COLLAPSE into a heap.

GROUNDER
Dumb blue hedgehog...

EXT. SPRING YARD ZONE - PINBALL FOREST - DAY

Sonic heads off thru the PINBALL-LIKE LANDSCAPE of Spring Yard Zone, bouncing off bumpers and enjoying himself. The next Warp of Confusion ring shows up.

Sonic gulps nervously, then jumps in--

INT. SPECIAL STAGE - MOMENTS LATER

By now, Sonic's getting used to the nauseous environment of the Warp. He SPINS thru the maze, trying to reach the CENTER. Being bumped round's starting to seem a bit fun, too.

SONIC
Whoo-hoo! Yea!

He gets to the CENTER, grabs the EMERALD, and TELEPORTS out.

EXT. SPRING YARD ZONE - PINBALL FOREST - DAY

Sonic reappears and the ring vanishes. He continues thru Spring Yard Zone. After a while, he encounters Dr Robotnik on a BRIDGE made of BLOCKS.

SONIC
Miss me, Robo?

DR. ROBOTNIK
(double takes)
How did you escape my henchmen?

SONIC
Pshh! Those dumbbots?? I heard from a *friend* that even if you take me down, I'll just come out stronger!

Robotnik YELLS in rage. With that, he slams a button on the control panel of his EGG-O-MATIC and a SINGLE SPIKE descends from the bottom. It LIFTS up the block Sonic is standing on!

Luckily, Sonic jumps to ANOTHER BLOCK and lands a HIT on the mobile. However, the spike on the mobile lifts that block too! Sonic is forced to jump from BLOCK TO BLOCK and hit the Egg-O-Matic from various angles until it is defeated and Dr. Robotnik flies away in anger.

Sonic MOCKINGLY waves goodbye and speeds off to the next area.

INT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE - LATER

Robotnik returns to his lab with the busted robots. Madonna is unimpressed.

DR ROBOTNIK
Madonna, we need a new plan! My idiot robots got thrashed by Sonic!

MADONNA
Why don't you just shoot him?

DR ROBOTNIK
He's *faster than light itself!*

MADONNA
So? Build a gun that can shoot supersonic targets.

Dr Robotnik mulls all of this over. Then he stops.

DR ROBOTNIK
No. It's not enough.
(off Madonna)
Remember when I pulverized that fellow at my address? The blue hedgehog?

MADONNA
Yeah?

DR ROBOTNIK
I just realized, that was no ordinary hedgehog. That was *Sonic's father*.
(then)
I want him to know how it feels to see his *entire hometown* get roboticized.

INT. LABYRINTH ZONE - TUNNELS - DAY

Sonic finds his way into a FLOODED STONE TUNNEL deep below the surface of South Island. Labyrinth Zone. The area should've been relatively untouched, but Robotnik decided to lay all sorts of devious traps round the area like spiked balls on chains and heads that shoot fireballs, among others. The actual labyrinth itself has STRANGE CARVING in some of the stone blocks, depicting EAGLES AND OCTOPI, among a few other things.

Sonic dodges a few FIREBALLS. He's running so fast he FALLS DOWN again. However, a WAVE OF WATER brings him down a SLOPED SURFACE. Sonic enjoys the waterslide at first, until he realizes he's heading straight into an OCEAN! He TUMBLES DOWN, scared for his life--

SONIC
This is worse than the Avalanche!

He screams his head off the slide dumps him into the pool.

INTERCUT WITH:

Sonic is SUBMERGED, and desperately looking for some way above to the surface. He starts COUGHING and GASPING for breath.

SONIC'S MEMORY: A young Sonic hanging by the pool. He tries to do a backflip to impress his friends. However, it fails, and Sonic is left in the water, coughing and gasping--

BACK ON: Sonic, who realizes history repeats, and his worst moment is, figuratively and literally, going to be the death of him.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Curse you, Anton...

Suddenly... an AIR BUBBLE floats by. Sonic gives one desperate THROW and breathes it in. This gives him enough energy to swim up to the surface. There he is. Panting and petrified.

SONIC'S MEMORY: Bernadette, terrified. She hurtles herself into the water, looking for Sonic. She spots him, almost at the bottom of the pool. She scoops him up and takes him out of the pool, out of the water. Her dress is SOAKING WET.

BACK ON: Sonic, as he remembers his mother doing anything for him. How he'd do anything for her now. And so he DOGGY-PADDLES thru out the water, taking a moment to breathe in passing air bubbles.

He jumps out of the water and across a few stony terrains; perfect timing, as a SPIKED BALL was about to swing into him. He speeds off thru the zone, collecting Air Bubbles if he has to go thru water, crossing BRIDGES that fall as he runs across, and enjoying waterslides.

He sees the Special Stage ring open for him, and he jumps, possibly to escape the water.

INT. WARP OF CONFUSION - CONTINUOUS

Sonic hollers in excitement as he enters the Warp of Confusion. Completely used to the, well, confusing nature of it, he spins round, enjoys being flung round, and reaches the emerald in the center.

SONIC
Only one left!

EXT. STATION SQUARE - SUNSET

Chico and Bill are hanging by the curb, pondering.

BILL
I kinda miss Sonic.

CHICO
I don't think we've seen him since that whole, Robotnik killed his parents thing.

Bill is about to say something when we hear a METALLIC HUMMING. The two look up to see a WARSHIP.

BILL
Oh my god.

A LASER CANNON attached to the ship aims at Chico. Too scared to move out of the way, Chico can only watch as the cannon FIRES--

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE - SAME

Dr Robotnik roars with laughter.

DR ROBOTNIK
I got him! That dopey excuse of a "best friend!"

Madonna, with tears in her eyes.

DR ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
Now, prepare the feed!

Madonna looks guilty at the mention of the feed.

MADONNA
Right.

She hands Robotnik the tape--

EXT. STATION SQUARE (OVERHEAD) - MOMENTS LATER

The NEWS SCREENS flicker to life, but instead of playing propaganda, they play a video. Of Madonna.

MADONNA (ON TV)
If you have found this tape, then you have trespassed Dr Robotnik's laboratory, and I'm proud of that. My name is Madonna Anzilotti. I have been with Robotnik for nine years. During that time, he has been abusive, uncaring, and semi-misogynistic.

Several MOBIANS look up to watch the video, taking pity for Madonna.

MADONNA (ON TV) (CONT'D)
I only dated him because he promised me money. You see, I was a hooker on the streets back then, and I...

INT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE - SAME

Robotnik is ENRAGED to see Madonna's video.

DR ROBOTNIK
MADONNA...

Madonna doesn't respond.

DR ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
What is the meaning of this?

Not even waiting for an answer, Robotnik begins an angry rant.

DR ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
I've put up with your buffoonery all this time, only for you to *APPROVE* of the intrusion of my laboratory?? I AM *NOT* LETTING YOU HAVE ANY SAY IN MY PLAN!!

MADONNA
Like you ever let me, anyway!

DR ROBOTNIK
You were better off as a fancy slut!

MADONNA
(gasps)
That's it. I'M... LEAVING... YOU!

With fire in Robotnik's eyes, we SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE - ROBOTNIK'S SECRET LAB - CONTINUOUS

Madonna is BOUND AND GAGGED in a corner. Robotnik takes one last look at her, SPITTING in her direction, as he goes back to the control panel and presses a button--

INT. LABYRINTH ZONE - TUNNELS - DAY

Sonic reaches Robotnik, who's waiting for him with an Egg-O-Matic surrounded by Air Bubbles. Sonic shakes his fist at Robotnik.

SONIC
Hey, 'Buttnik! I just conquered my worst fear!

DR ROBOTNIK
Not quite.

SONIC
Huh?

DR ROBOTNIK
Water may be one of your biggest fears, but I know the worst one of all.
(then)
You'll be sad to know I just roboticized Central City. And there's nothing on earth you can do about it.

On Sonic, mortified, as Robotnik speeds off, laughing maniacally. POPFLASH TO: BERNADETTE. CHEVY. CHICO. BILL. MRS. WINSLOW. They all become replaced by ROBOTNIK'S FACE.

PULL BACK as Sonic is filled with rage, and finally loses his temper--

SONIC
FUCK YOU, ROBOTNIK!!

Sonic gives chase. He finally catches up to the Egg-O-Matic and starts BASHING INTO IT, grabbing Air Bubbles along the way. But the Egg-O-Matic speeds up and zooms thru the cavern, leading Sonic to run faster.

Sonic makes his way thru the dangerous passage, avoiding SPEARS coming from the side of the wall. He spams his Super Sonic Spin Attack all the while. He reaches the Egg-O-Matic again and HITS IT five more times, causing it to EXPLODE.

SONIC (CONT'D)
You hear me, egghead? You'll get what's coming to you! You *will!*

Dr Robotnik flies away as Sonic speeds off outside the tunnel.

INT. FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASE - COMMONS - MINUTES LATER

Sally receives a notification again. She looks at it in shock--

SALLY
Central City just got roboticized.

BUNNIE
Oh my stars...

SALLY
Here, let me show you...

She turns her computer towards the Freedom Fighters. ON the empty, bleak city. Everyone gasps.

As the fighters review the FOOTAGE, they notice something. Madonna's video, still playing. However, it's going staticky.

SALLY (CONT'D)
What in the world...?

CHIRPS
That lady, she's *insulting* Robotnik!

Off Sally, interested, as she begins to type on her computer.

EXT. LABYRINTH ZONE - OUTSIDE OF TUNNELS - DUSK

Sonic sits down on a rock and begins to cry. Had he been too late to save Central City? Maybe if he hadn't run away...

He deeply exhales, and looks up to reveal: BERNADETTE.

BERNADETTE
Sonic...

SONIC
Mama... no island's worth the trouble that I'm in. If I only hadn't run away...

BERNADETTE
Sonic, we all make mistakes, no matter how dire they are. Even if you do, it's never too late to make up for them.

SONIC
But I've lost my best friend, my home, my teacher...

BERNADETTE
It's okay, Sonic. The one thing about every warrior is that they make new friends.

CHICO appears next to Bernadette.

CHICO
Like I always say, Sonic, when you get an egg on your face, make an omelette.

SONIC
I know, but how?

BERNADETTE
I'm sure you'll find a way. You are the master of your own destiny.

Sonic considers this. He gets up from the rock, and doesn't run, but WALKS.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. STAR LIGHT ZONE - HIGHWAYS - NIGHT

Sonic has entered a CITY that's UNDERGOING CONSTRUCTION. Robotnik used the incomplete and already dangerous landscape to try and throw Sonic off his trail, hence the BOMBS on the SEESAWS, the random fans, and the seemingly indestructible Badniks.

He bounces on CRABMEAT (a crab Badnik) a few times until a CHIPMUNK pops out. Running thru the city in construction, Sonic dodges a few more DANGERS and TRAPS, then he spin jumps into the giant ring that takes him to the last Warp of Confusion.

INT. SPECIAL STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Sonic has the time of his life being span round, flipped round, and flying all over the place.

Minding the false exits, he makes his way to the sixth and last CHAOS EMERALD. He approaches the center and SNAGS the EMERALD, then immediately WARPS OUT.

EXT. STAR LIGHT ZONE - HIGHWAYS - NIGHT

Sonic rolls off out on the LONG ROAD. He SPIN JUMPS onto a SEE-SAW. Dr Robotnik descends in his mobile, with an UNDERSIDE that DROPS MINES.

DR ROBOTNIK
Still at it, hedgehog? I thought you were thrown off by your little "failure."

SONIC
Nope. I don't care how much you try to "throw me off." I'm still a warrior, and I'm gonna undermine you right back!

He FLIPS the bombs back at the mech. He DODGES the bombs Robotnik throws at him and SUPER SONIC SPINS the mech. After eight bombs FLIPPED and eight Spin Attacks, the mobile starts to become unstable again as Dr Robotnik is once again angry. Sonic watches him fly away, CHUCKLING. He produces NICOLE--

SONIC (CONT'D)
Nicole, is Robotnik's base close by?

NICOLE
Definitely.

Sonic REVS UP and runs at high speed, determined.

INT. FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASE - COMMONS - MINUTES LATER

Sally gets a notification from Sonic.

SALLY
Attention, everyone: I just got an update from Sonic. *He's found Robotnik's base*.

The Freedom Fighters are all SURPRISED.

BUNNIE
Please tell me I don't wind up with a cybernetic partner!

INT. SCRAP BRAIN ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Sonic has entered Robotnik's SINISTER LABORATORY full of traps and devices.

DR ROBOTNIK (V.O.)
Well, well, Sonic the Hedgehog. You've uncovered my lair. I think it's time I get my revenge. I've modified my entire lair to outsmart YOU!

SONIC
Big whoop, robo-head.

He hops on a platform, only to find out it's a conveyor belt, which sends him sliding in the path of a BUZZSAW.

Luckily, he's able to jump in time and avoid the trap. He encounters much more mechanical equipment, as he moves with precision and tries not to focus on his current situation. Eventually, Sonic sees Robotnik waiting for him at a tower.

DR ROBOTNIK
Hello, Sonic. It's a shame you can't stay any longer.

SONIC
Why would I want to?

DR ROBOTNIK
Sometimes you've just got to slow down!

Robotnik laughs, presses a button and sends Sonic DOWN A SHAFT.

Sonic arrives at the next section of the zone, working downwards to the very heart of the base. He outruns more machinery, jumping on every Badnik he comes across.

Yes, there's even a flooded section, but Sonic gets out just fine, breathing in all the Air Bubbles.

Eventually, Sonic stops at a HUGE, METAL GATE. He picks up Nicole--

SONIC
Is this where Robotnik is hiding?

NICOLE
Analyzing...
(beat)
Yes.

INT. FINAL ZONE - ROBOTNIK'S LAIR - NIGHT

Sonic enters Robotnik's lair and stops.

SONIC
This is it... I can't turn back...

In his mind, he hears...

BUNNIE (V.O.)
Even if you do end up in hot water, you'll come out stronger.

BERNADETTE (V.O.)
Be a warrior for me, okay?

Close on Sonic, as his face narrows.

SONIC
HERE I COME, ROBOTNIK!!

INT. FINAL ZONE - NIGHT

Sonic runs into Dr Robotnik's MAIN LAB. Robotnik descends in his Egg-O-Matic.

DR ROBOTNIK
(laughs)
You've made it, pesky little rodent. I rid you of your parents. I've set traps to outsmart you. I took over your entire hometown, and you STILL think you can defeat me??

SONIC
Yeah, what do you think? I've learned alot of things over the past few days. One of them is how to kick *butt*.

DR ROBOTNIK
We shall see.

Sonic takes a deep breath in. Dr Robotnik disappears and comes back laughing in a PISTON, one of FOUR flying into the room. Sonic launches a spin attack on it. He spin jumps onto all the pistons. SPARK BALLS fly thru the room, and Sonic DODGES each and every one of them.

DR ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
(enraged)
WHY WON'T YOU GO DOWN, VERMIN???

SONIC
Because I'm way past cool!

Dr Robotnik starts to get distracted by his hatred for Sonic. His attacks become more and more flawed.

As Robotnik tries to work the controls of his piston, Sonic sees a WEAKNESS on the busted vehicle. He hits the surrounding areas, then hits it in its weakness.

By now, Robotnik's piston is failing, slowly sputtering to the ground. With no time to waste, Sonic BREATHES DEEPLY and REVS UP--

SONIC (CONT'D)
Super... Sonic... SPIN... ATTACK!

He launches a final Super Sonic Spin Attack on the piston Robotnik is in, and the piston CRASHES THRU THE FLOOR, *EXPLODING*.

DR ROBOTNIK
I hate that hedgehog! Hate... hate... *HATE!!*

Robotnik gets away in his Egg-O-Matic. Sonic follows to hopefully apprehend him when suddenly...

the entire Scrap Brain Zone starts CRUMBLING. The floor is SHAKING. The walls are CAVING IN. Sonic hears a SHRIEK. He follows its direction to find--

ROBOTNIK'S SECRET LAB

Madonna, still tied up! The walls are closing in on her as she screams for her life.

Sonic runs over and unties her, and snatches the cloth gag over her mouth. Madonna's eyes widen at the sight of Sonic rescuing her.

MADONNA
That's my HERO right there!

Sonic SPINS OUT with Madonna. SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE - DARKNESS

Reveal the Final Zone (which is an aerial fortress) EXPLODING. Sonic and Madonna are sent SPIRALING DOWN thru the blackness of space, helpless, screaming--

When a FIGHTER JET just so happens to cross by and save them! Reveal SALLY piloting.

SALLY
You're good to go, *warrior!*

EXT. FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASE (OUTSIDE) - CONTINUOUS

Sonic, Madonna, and Sally land back in Knothole. All is BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL again, with COLOURFUL FLOWERS sprouting and LITTLE ANIMALS roaming happily.

SALLY
Nice job, Sonic. Thanks to you,
South Island is safe. For now.

MADONNA
I've gotta admit, doll: you're cute
for a hero.
(Sonic blushes)
In a "mother to son" way.
(then, to Sally)
Could you 'scuse us for a moment?

Sally nods and leaves for the commons, while Madonna and Sonic get out of the jet. Madonna places Sonic on her lap--

MADONNA (CONT'D)
I've dated Robotnik for nine years. I think that was the final straw.

SONIC
No kidding. His game isn't real, his life isn't real.

MADONNA
This whole thing forced me to reevaluate my life, and I've decided I don't need a man to get by. I can do it all on my own.
(then)
Since Robotnik killed your parents, would you like to come live with me?

SONIC
Is *that* what you meant by "mother to son?"

MADONNA
Of course. Listen, I'll be the best mother you'll ever have. I know how to have fun.

SONIC
You do?

MADONNA
Yeah. We could have a picnic tomorrow in Green Hill Zone. I'll bring sandwiches, lemonade, cookies, potato chips, and everything. Sound good?

Sonic nods.

SALLY (O.S.)
Hey Madonna, I have something for you.

Madonna heads inside. Sally is in the front corridor.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Heard you used to have cats...?

TWO ORANGE TABBY CATS scurry from behind Sally. Madonna is overjoyed--

MADONNA
Sparks! Links!

The cats go crazy at the sight of their master, climbing all over her and licking her.

INT. FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASE - COMMONS - MINUTES LATER

Sonic is greeted with the Freedom Fighters, all cheering.

BUNNIE
Sugah hog! You're all in one piece!

SONIC
I couldn't have done it without you, Bunnie. What you said really helped.

BUNNIE
Glad to hear it.

CHIRPS (O.S.)
Sonic!

SONIC
Chirps!

Reveal Chirps, giving Sonic a THUMBS-UP. Sonic and Chirps HUG, the looks they exchange are poignant.

SONIC (CONT'D)
I'm sorry if this sounds weird, but THANK YOU for tumbling out of your nest a few days ago.
(off Chirps' confusion)
It taught me my Super Sonic Spin Attack.

SALLY
So Sonic, since Central City is no more, do you wanna stay in South Island?

SONIC
Actually...

EXT. CENTRAL CITY - THE NEXT DAY

Sonic, Madonna and the Freedom Fighters, renovate Central City. It takes a long time, but in the end, it pays off. Finally, Sally turns on a SWITCH, causing the old screens to teem with life. However, instead of Top 40 hits, it is PORKER LEWIS as a newscaster.

PORKER
(watching the screens)
I sure make a good news reporter, do I?

SALLY
(nods)
You know, I've always been a country person. I'm gonna have to get used to this.

PORKER
Don't worry. You will.

INT. MBC STUDIOS - NIGHT

That evening, Sonic's being interviewed on live TV by reporter BARBARA WALLABY.

BARBARA
Good evening, Mobians! I'm Barbara Wallaby. Let's get right into the news! Tonight, we have star in the making Sonic the Hedgehog, who took down Dr. Robotnik at the age of ten!

SONIC
(winks)
That's right! I'm warpspeed!

BARBARA
Now warpspeed, tell me about yourself. Anything you'd like to share that the public doesn't know yet? Like... where you came up with that fab Super Sonic Spin Attack?

SONIC
Uh... um...
(a bit embarrassed)
I-I took rides in my folks' tumble dryer when they weren't looking.
(stumbles)
W-well, that, and a certain chicken's way of waking up.

BARBARA
(chuckles)
Oh Sonic, you cheeky chap. Stick round for more news, right here on MBC!

EXT. GREEN HILL ZONE - THE NEXT DAY

Madonna and Sonic set up a PICNIC.

SONIC (V.O.)
I don't know what happened, but the past week went from a nightmare to a daydream.

MADONNA
Hey Sonic, have you ever heard of a chili dog?

Sonic shakes his head.

SONIC (V.O.)
Even then, they still mean alot to me.

As Madonna prepares a CHILI DOG, Sonic stares into the distance. BERNADETTE, CHEVY, CHICO, MRS. WINSLOW, and BILL all appear, waving at him.

SONIC (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They were right. I am a warrior. That week proved it.

MADONNA (O.S.)
Sonic?

Reveal Madonna, offering a chili dog to Sonic.

SONIC
Oh.

He eats his chili dog, his eyes widen--

SONIC (CONT'D)
This tastes *great!*

Madonna smiles and laughs. Sonic strikes his ICONIC, FINGER-WAVING POSE as we FADE TO BLACK.

THE END